Vol. VIII. Numb. 90

THE OBSERVATOR.

On a Letter from Glouceſterſhire, *of high-flying Parſons impos'd upon a Pariſh there by a Popiſh Patron, who is now at* Bruſſels, *whither he has carry'd a Proteſtant Heireſs, to pervert her. A Hint at the Laws againſt ſuch Practices. The Concurrence of the High-flyers and Papiſts to embroil us. The preſent High-Church tread in the Steps of Arch-biſhop* Laud, *and his Abettors, in Favour of Popery and Tyranny. Dr.* Sacheverell *acted by the ſame Spirit in his* 5th *of* Nov. *Sermon. The Cauſe of altering the Office of our Church on that Day, in Favour of Papiſts. On the printing ſome of the Lord-Biſhop of* Sarum's *former* 30th *of* January *Sermons, to defend Dr.* Sacheverell. *On the preſent Hopes of the Faction.*

From **Wednesday**, December 7. to **Saturday**, December 10. 1709.

Country-m. YOU had a Letter ſome Time ago from a Gentleman in *Glouceſterſhire*, Maſter, that you have forgot. Pray let's talk a little about it now; for it ſeems to point at one of the Cauſes how we come to be ſo much plagu'd with a high-flying Clergy.

Obſ. Read it; for I had overlook'd it, among the Multitude of Letters and Papers that are continually ſent me, *Roger*.

Country-m. The Gentleman ſays, Maſter, 'That 'the Pariſh of *H----throp* in that Dioceſe, being 'vacant by the Death of Mr. *B---ker*, their Par-'ſon, who was a Man of very indifferent Qualifi-'cations, but a furious Zealot for promoting High-'flyers at Elections for County and Convocation, 'the Pariſh being weary of ſuch Paſtors, of whom 'they have had ſeveral ſucceſſively to keep them in 'Ignorance, apply'd themſelves to their Patroneſs, 'the Lady *Webb*, a Papiſt, importun'd her for a bet-'ter Miniſter, and pitch'd upon one, againſt whom 'ſhe could object nothing, ſo that at length ſhe 'comply'd with their Requeſt; but her Popiſh At-'torney being then at *London*, ſhe delay'd preſent-'ing the Miniſter, 'till her ſaid Attorney ſhould 'come down to adjuſt the Terms; for the Living 'being worth 150 *l. per Ann.* ſhe thought it reaſo-'nable that one half ſhould be detain'd for her 'own Popiſh Prieſt, and in ſhort dy'd before the 'Preſentation was ſeiz'd. Upon which, another 'honeſt Miniſter went to the Univerſity of *Oxon*, 'and got Poſſeſſion of the Church; but the Act 'of Parliament is ſo defective in that Caſe, that 'tis ſaid he cannot hold it. After the Lady's 'Death, the Right of Patronage devolv'd to her 'Son, Sir *J. W.* now at *Bruſſels*, upon the Account 'of keeping a rich young Lady in the *Romiſh* Faith, 'contrary to the Deſire and laſt Will of her Pa-'rents, and another Truſtee that is a Proteſtant, 'who cannot alter the Caſe, becauſe ſhe is out of 'the Land, and will be of Age ſpeedily. The poor 'People continu'd their Petition to the Baronet; 'but two or three neighbouring wealthy Papiſts, in 'Conjunction with ſome high-flying Proteſtants, 'ſtopt the Mouth of the Inhabitants, by prevailing 'on the Baronet to preſent one Mr. *Br---toy*, an 'excellent Jockey and Hunter, who has ſhining 'Plate of his own Horſes winning, hunts but ſix 'Days *per* Week, and is more ignorant than his 'Predeceſſor, if poſſible.

Obſ. That's a ſad Complaint indeed, *Roger*; but what would the Gentleman have me to do in the Caſe? He and others ſhould lay it before their Biſhop, that his Lordſhip may move for a Redreſs in Parliament, and to have the Laws in that Caſe amended, if they be defective; for 'tis abſolutely intollerable, that Papiſts ſhould have the Preſentation of Proteſtant Miniſters. We may be ſure, that they will preſent none but High-flyers of the worſt Sort, on Purpoſe to embroil and betray the Church. Theſe are falſe Brethren of a true Stamp, who endanger us in Reality: Such Men will do all they can to effect that Reconciliation with *Rome*, which Mr. *Leſley* had laid down a Plan for in his *Regale and Pontificate*, and with all their Hearts make Simoniacal Bargains with Popiſh Patrons, to ſhare Benefices with their Brethren, the Popiſh Prieſts. This is a Caſe that deſerves Conſideration indeed, eſpecially ſince there are three conſiderable Livings in that Country, depending on the ſame Circumſtances, as the Gentleman ſays. But certainly if they be not wanting to themſelves in proſecuting, according to Seſſ. 1ſt of *A.* 1ſt of *W.* and *M.* Cap. 26. they may prevent Preſentations by Papiſts, or their Truſtees; and the Univerſities, who have the Right of Preſentation in that Caſe by the ſame Act, are concern'd to ſupport their own Title, to ſtand by the Perſons ſo aggriev'd, and to ſee the Penalty of 500 *l.* levy'd upon that Popiſh Attorney, if he preſent contrary to that Act. Then, as to Sir *J. W.* he is actually guilty of high Treaſon, and may be proſecuted as a Traytor, for perverting a Proteſtant Lady, and that too contrary to the Will of her Parents, and of a Proteſtant Truſtee; ſo that the Complainers have Law enough on their Side, if they have the Courage and Honeſty to get it put in Execution. In the mean Time, we ſee what a fine State we ſhall be brought to by Papiſts and High-flyers, if they be ſuffer'd to act thus in manifeſt Contempt of Law.

Country-m. Aye, Maſter, we ſee they join Hand in Hand to embroil us, otherwiſe their furious Apoſtle, Dr. *Sacheverell*, and his Abettors, would not have, contrary to the Deſign of the Day on the 5th of *November*, which Providence had made ſo remarkable for a double Deliverance from Popery and Slavery, perverted the Orders of Church and State, and made it an Occaſion for raging againſt moderate Church-men and Diſſenters, and for running down and miſrepreſenting the Revolution; ſince the late King *William*, of glorious Memory, landed in *England* on that very Day, tho' the *Dutch* did all they could to have landed the Day before, becauſe 'twas the Anniverſary of his Birth, but Heaven prevented it by contrary Winds, as if it had deſign'd to rivet the Memory of the 5th of *November* among us, as a never to be forgotten Anniverſary of our double Deliverance from the Papiſts, and our falſe Brethren, the High-flyers, who, by their ſlaviſh Doctrine of Paſſive-Obedience, and open Concurrence with the Tyranny and Perjury of the Court, as King *James* the IIſt expreſs'd it, brought the *Philiſtines* a ſecond Time upon us.

Obſ. 'Tis plain, *Roger*, that the High-Church is acting the ſame Part now, that they did in the Days of their Patriarch *Laud*, who favour'd the Papiſts, and was for making himſelf a *Britiſh* Pope at *Lambeth*, as was charg'd upon him by Sir *Edward Deering*, Knight of the Shire of *Kent*, in the Houſe of Commons, tho' Sir *Edward* himſelf was a ſtaunch

staunch Church-man, and a Friend to Episcopacy. His Words, as we find them in the Collection of his Speeches printed in 1642, p. 14 and 15, are as follow: 'He (meaning Arch-bishop *Laud*) pleads 'in Print for a Patriarchate, and for such an one 'whose Judgment he before-hand profes'eth ought 'to be final; and then I am sure it ought to be 'uncring. — He pleads Popeship under the Name 'of a Patriarch; and I much fear lest the End of 'his Patriarchal-Plea may be as that of Cardinal 'Pool, his Predecessor, who would have two Heads, 'one *Caput Regale*, another *Caput Sacerdotale, a proud 'Parallel to set up the Mitre as high as the Crown.* 'But herein I shall be free and clear; if one there 'must be, (be it a Pope, be it a Patriarch, this I 'resolve upon for my own Choice, *procul a Jove, 'procul a Fulmine*) I had rather serve one as far off 'as *Tyber*, than to have him come so near me as 'the *Thames*. A Pope at *Rome* will do me less 'hurt, than a Patriarch may do at *Lambeth*.

Now, let any Man compare the *Pontificate and Regale*, writ by Mr. *Lesley*, the admir'd Advocate of our High-Church, and what he advanc'd in his *Rehearsals*, to make our Priests Sacrificers, and the Lord's-Supper a real Sacrifice, it will easily appear, that the same Spirit of Popery and Tyranny acts our present High-Church, and they pursue the same Measures; for, as Sir *Edward Deering* informs us, pag. 13. of his Speeches, they publish'd audacious, libelling, and Popish Pamphlets against the true Religion. The Authors were *Pockington, Heylin, Dow, Cosins, Shelford, Swan, Reeves, Yates, Hansted, Studley, Sperron, Brown, Roberts*, and many more. These Sir *Edward* calls the Innovators of our settl'd Doctrines, and undertook to prove it, while the Licensers of that Time, Arch-bishop *Laud*'s Chaplains, defac'd the Labours of our ancient and best Divines, by *Deleaturs*, whereas they gave their *Imprimaturs* to those Popish Libels. Any Body may see, *Roger*, that the other nonjurant Advocate of our High-Church, *The Rehearsal Reviv'd*, was driving at the same Design, by his propos'd Restraint upon the Press.

Country-m. I have heard, Master, that in the 5th of *November* Service there was formerly this Clause, *Cut off those Workers of Iniquity*, (meaning the Papists) *whose Religion is Rebellion*; and that in the same Service they were call'd, *that Babylonish and Anti-christian Sect.* Pray how came these Clauses to be left out, Master?

Obs. Because the Papists were the good Friends of our High-Church then, as well as now, *Roger.* Arch-bishop *Laud* gives us an Account of it in his Star-Chamber-Speech, the 14th of *January* 1637. He says, p. 32. The second Alteration is of small Consequence; so that you see how loth he was to have the Pope call'd Antichrist, and for the first he defends it, but at the same Time, lays the Blame of both those Alterations upon King *Charles* the I.

The Arch-bishop's Arguments in Defence of those Alterations, are so frivolous, that no Man but one who had a warm Side towards Popery, would have advanc'd them; for every Body knows that the Traytors who suffer'd for their Plots against Queen *Elizabeth*, and King *James* the I. defended those Conspiracies by the Authority of the Pope, and the Principles of their Religion, which, upon that Account, was very justly call'd Rebellion, by our Church in those Days, as they call'd the Pope Antichrist in their Homilies. But *Laud*, and the Innovators of his Time, alter'd those Things without Authority either of Church or State; so that according to Dr. *Sacheverell*'s own Proposition, in his 5th of *November* Sermons, that Patriarch, and other Apostles of his High-Church, were justly arraign'd for Traytors; and at the same Time we may plainly perceive, he himself is acted by the like treasonable Spirit, in touching so slightly upon the Papists, and railing so furiously against the moderate Church-men and Dissenters, by his 5th of *November* Sermon.

Country-m. Aye, but Master, the Faction have made an Apology for the Doctor, by publishing two Sermons preach'd formerly on the 30th of *January*, by Dr. *Burnet*, now Lord Bishop of *Sarum*, and another Piece he wrote when he was a young Man.

Obs. That's like their Way of Proceeding, *Roger.* Why don't they also print the Papers publish'd by his Lordship at, and since the Revolution, especially that intitul'd, *An Enquiry into the present State of Affairs, and in particular, Whether we are Allegiance to the King in these Circumstances, and whether we are bound to treat with him, and call him back again or not?* publish'd in 1688. There they may see the Doctor's Reasons for altering his Opinion, which the whole Faction is not able to answer; so that they proceed upon a false Argument, *Roger*; for they may as well upbraid any Man for turning from Paganism, Judaism, or Popery, upon Conviction.

Country-m. I take it to be a very dangerous Symptom, Master, that Preachers and Libellers should go on so boldly to attack the Foundations of our Liberty; it looks as if there were some Plot or Conspiracy ready to break out, when the Queen's Title, and the solemn Determinations, and Laws of King, Queen, and Parliament, are thus openly run down from the Press, and the Pulpit, not by Argument, but by railing, by sowing Divisions, and endeavouring to unhinge the Peoples Principles as to our present happy Constitution. They could not be more impudent, if the Pretender were upon our Coasts, with a Fleet and an Army. I suppose, Master, their Spirits are elevated by the News of a *French* Squadron upon the Coast of *Ireland*; but I hope they'll meet with a Cooler ere long.

Obs. It has been the Custom of the Party all along, *Roger*, to buoy themselves up with false Hopes; and we have Reason to believe, that be the Grounds of their present Expectations what they please, they will be confounded. We have no Cause to fear their Threats or Plots, so long as God preserves her Majesty, and blesses her with Success; and we have those in the Entail, that are able enough, with the Assistance of the good People of *Great Britain*, to defend their Title not only against Passive-Obedience, and the false Comments the Faction put upon it, but against the Lives and Fortunes they have been lifting, even though the Pretender should come with an Army to support them.

Advertisements.

Dunton's Advertisement.

☞ About two Weeks hence will be publish'd, Athenianism, or the new Projects of John Dunton, Author of the Essay entitl'd, The Hazard of a Death-Bed Repentance; being six hundred distinct Treatises, (in Prose and Verse) written with his own Hand, and is an entire Collection of all his Writings, both in Manuscript, and such as were formerly printed. To which is added, Dunton's Farewel to Printing, in some serious Thoughts on those Words of Solomon, of making many Books there is no End, and much Study is a Weariness of the Flesh, Vol. I. with the Author's Effigies, to distinguish the original and true Copies, from such as are false and imperfect. Take Care also of being cheated by Wooden Cutts, the Right is that which is drawn and grav'd by those two celebrated Artists, Mr. Knight and Mr. Vander Gucht. To this Work is prefix'd an heroick Poem upon Dunton's Projects, written by the Athenian Society; with an Alphabetical Table of the several Projects, Questions, Novelties, poems, and Characters inserted in this Volume of this Athenian and Universal Project, a very large and distinct Account will be given in an Advertisement I shall insert at the End of my Answer to Dr. Sacheverell's Sermon, preach'd before the Right honourable the Lord-Mayor, Nov. 5. Which said Answer will be publish'd in about 14 Days hence, and scarce sooner, being necessary, (to justify the Novelty and Boldness of the Title) that Dunton's Answer to Dr. Sacheverell's Sermon, should be the last Answer, but shall be fully every (and if the Doctor answers it) Weekly and ever after indefinitely.

John Dunton.

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